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#19

# THE GOON™

by Eric Powell

The nameless man, the zombie priest, had come to town to build a gang from the undead. But even the undead fear…

# THE GOON™

## by Eric Powell


edited by **Matt Dryer** assistant edited by **Katie Moody**
designed by **Amy Arendts** publisher **Mike Richardson**

Zombies provided by **Jethro and Earl Zombie Wranglerin' Inc.**
and **The Adopt-A-Zombie Foundation**

Pop Fly by **Scott Allie**



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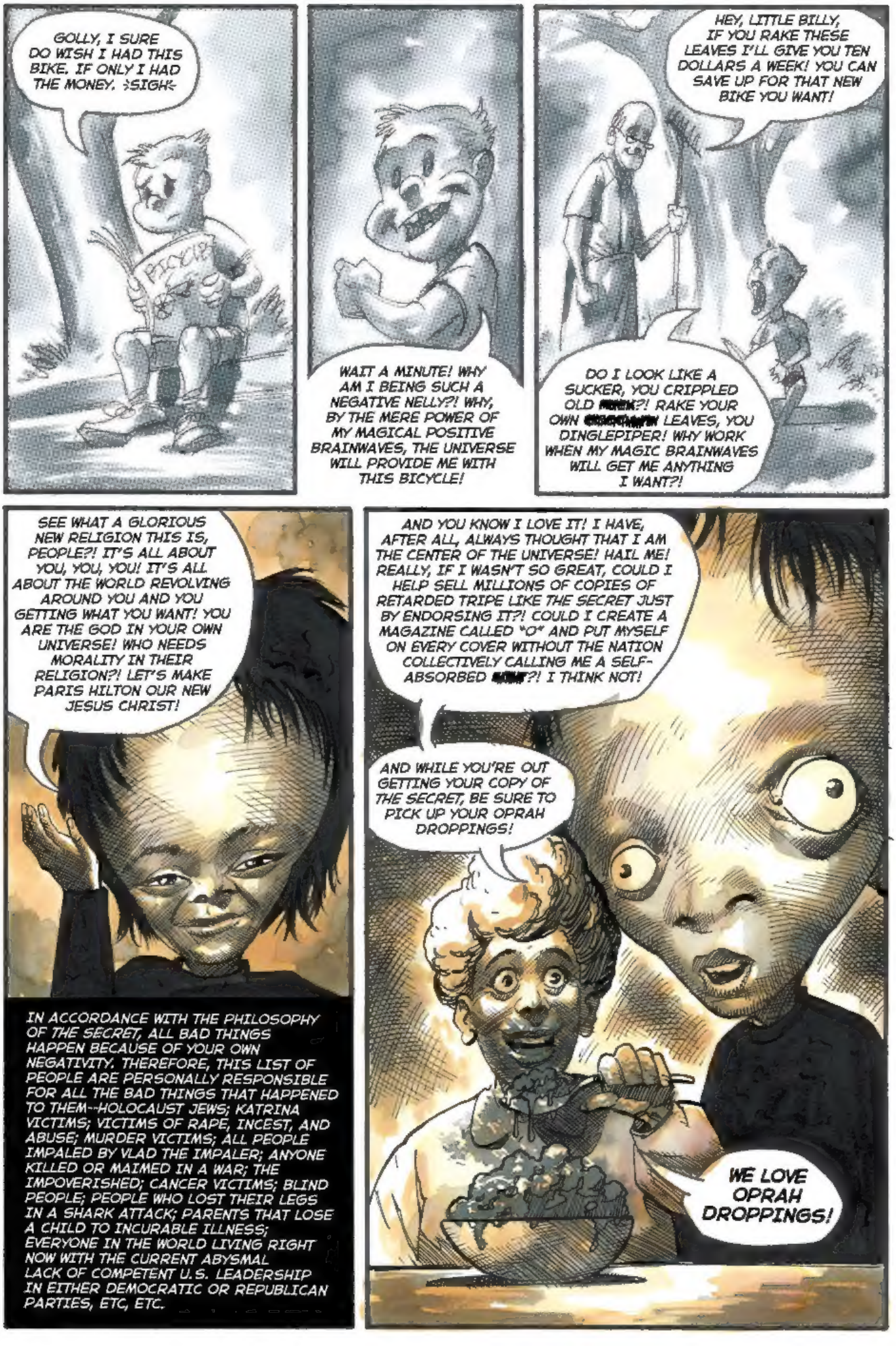
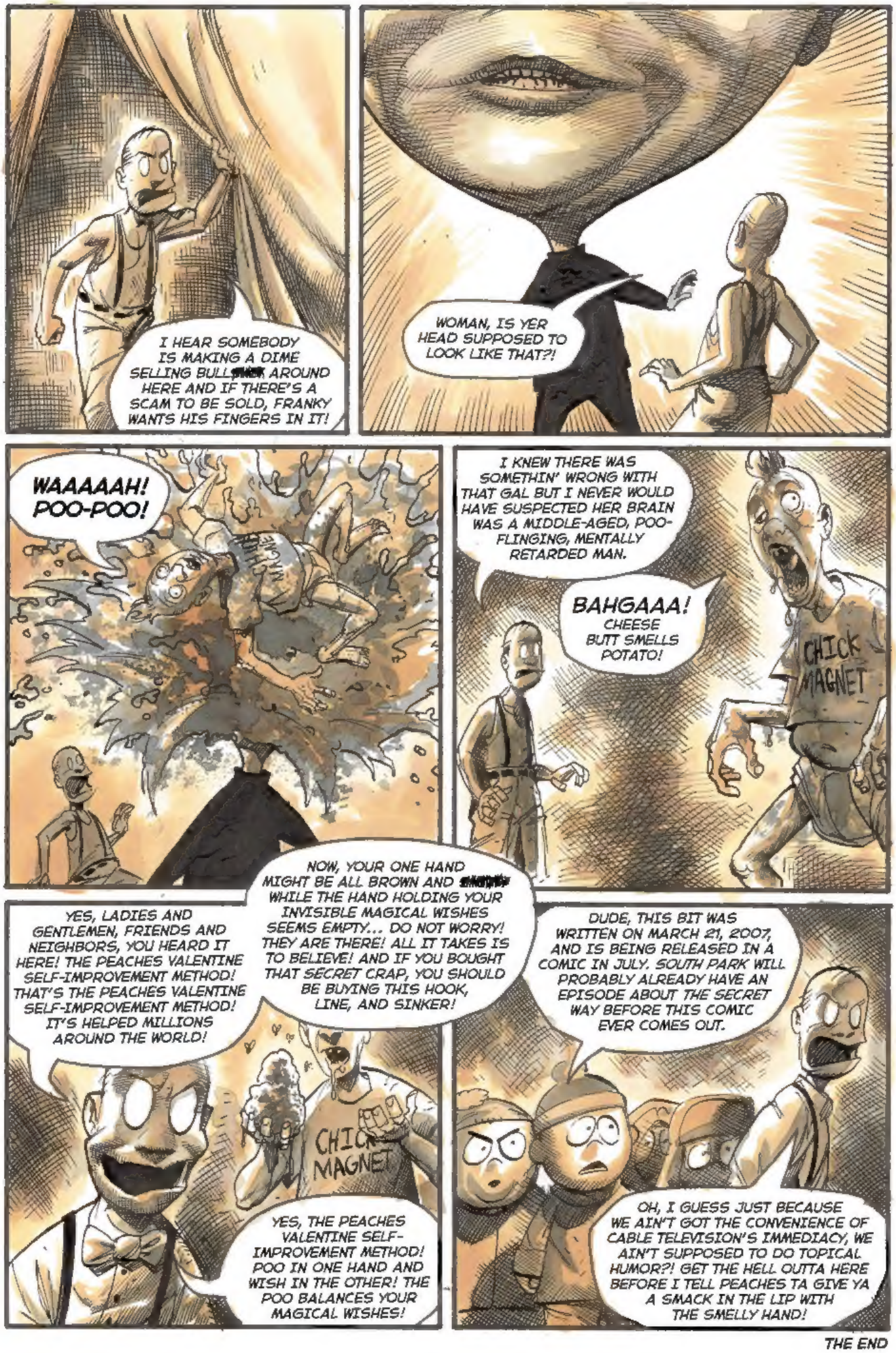
BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW YOU MISSED HIM
PEACHES VALENTINE
IN ALL HAIL THE OPRAH!
TELEVISION VIEWERS AND THOSE IN THE STUDIO AUDIENCE... KNEEL BEFORE YOUR GOD! THE OPRAH COMETH!
HELLOOOO, PEOPLE!

TODAY, BEFORE I SHOWER YOU ALL WITH GIFTS FROM MY CORPORATE SPONSORS, I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE SECRET!
The Secret
THE OPRAH TELLS OF THE GREAT SECRET! ALL WILL BE REVEALED!
THIS LIFE-CHANGING PHILOSOPHY ALLOWS YOU TO ACHIEVE ANY GOAL YOU WANT! BECOME SUPER RICH! GET THAT NEW CAR! MARRY A SUPERMODEL! AND HERE'S THE BEST PART... YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK FOR ANY OF IT!
THAT'S RIGHT! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAINTAIN A CONSTANT POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND YOUR MAGICAL INVISIBLE BRAINWAVES WILL AFFECT THE UNIVERSE AROUND YOU! GIVING YOU ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING YOU WANT! BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE MY WORD FOR IT! JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THESE SCENES FROM THE SECRET DVD! PUT TOGETHER BY A TEAM OF POSITIVE THINKING CORPORATE MARKETING RESEARCHERS. AVAILABLE FOR ONLY $19.95!
ANOTHER TRAFFIC JAM! OH, DINGLEPIPER! IT'S ALL MY NEGATIVE THINKING! I CAUSE THESE TRAFFIC JAMS WITH MY MIND BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT GETTING TO WORK ON TIME! DARN NEGATIVE ENERGY!
POOR [redacted] HAD A HEART ATTACK AND RAN INTO A TRUCK.
HEY, I KNOW THIS GUY! HAS A WIFE AND TWO KIDS. WIFE HAS CANCER AND THEY GOT A HELL OF A TIME PAYING THE BILLS. WHAT ARE THEY GONNA DO NOW?
DOUBLE DINGLEPIPER ALL MY NEGATIVITY! I'LL BE FIFTEEN MINUTES LATE NOW! WHY ME?!

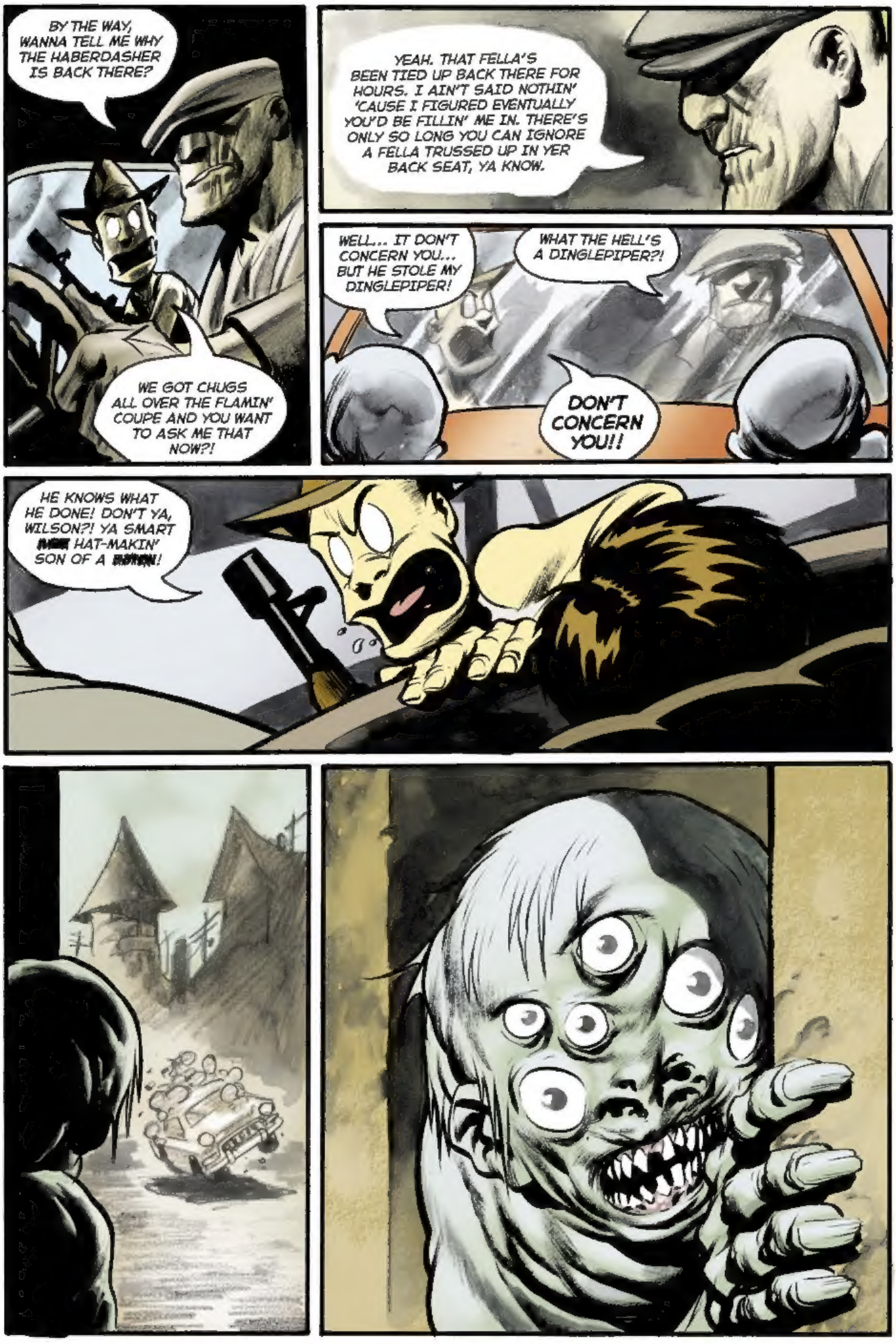

GOLLY, I SURE DO WISH I HAD THIS BIKE. IF ONLY I HAD THE MONEY. :SIGH:
WAIT A MINUTE! WHY AM I BEING SUCH A NEGATIVE NELLY?! WHY, BY THE MERE POWER OF MY MAGICAL POSITIVE BRAINWAVES, THE UNIVERSE WILL PROVIDE ME WITH THIS BICYCLE!
HEY, LITTLE BILLY, IF YOU RAKE THESE LEAVES I'LL GIVE YOU TEN DOLLARS A WEEK! YOU CAN SAVE UP FOR THAT NEW BIKE YOU WANT!
DO I LOOK LIKE A SUCKER, YOU CRIPPLED OLD [redacted]?! RAKE YOUR OWN [redacted] LEAVES, YOU DINGLEPIPER! WHY WORK WHEN MY MAGIC BRAINWAVES WILL GET ME ANYTHING I WANT?!
SEE WHAT A GLORIOUS NEW RELIGION THIS IS, PEOPLE?! IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU, YOU, YOU! IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WORLD REVOLVING AROUND YOU AND YOU GETTING WHAT YOU WANT! YOU ARE THE GOD IN YOUR OWN UNIVERSE! WHO NEEDS MORALITY IN THEIR RELIGION?! LET'S MAKE PARIS HILTON OUR NEW JESUS CHRIST!
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE SECRET, ALL BAD THINGS HAPPEN BECAUSE OF YOUR OWN NEGATIVITY. THEREFORE, THIS LIST OF PEOPLE ARE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE BAD THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO THEM--HOLOCAUST JEWS; KATRINA VICTIMS; VICTIMS OF RAPE, INCEST, AND ABUSE; MURDER VICTIMS; ALL PEOPLE IMPALED BY VLAD THE IMPALER; ANYONE KILLED OR MAIMED IN A WAR; THE IMPOVERISHED; CANCER VICTIMS; BLIND PEOPLE; PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR LEGS IN A SHARK ATTACK; PARENTS THAT LOSE A CHILD TO INCURABLE ILLNESS; EVERYONE IN THE WORLD LIVING RIGHT NOW WITH THE CURRENT ABYSMAL LACK OF COMPETENT U.S. LEADERSHIP IN EITHER DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN PARTIES, ETC, ETC.
AND YOU KNOW I LOVE IT! I HAVE, AFTER ALL, ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT I AM THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE! HAIL ME! REALLY, IF I WASN'T SO GREAT, COULD I HELP SELL MILLIONS OF COPIES OF RETARDED TRIPE LIKE THE SECRET JUST BY ENDORSING IT?! COULD I CREATE A MAGAZINE CALLED "O" AND PUT MYSELF ON EVERY COVER WITHOUT THE NATION COLLECTIVELY CALLING ME A SELF-ABSORBED [redacted]?! I THINK NOT!
AND WHILE YOU'RE OUT GETTING YOUR COPY OF THE SECRET, BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR OPRAH DROPPINGS!
WE LOVE OPRAH DROPPINGS!

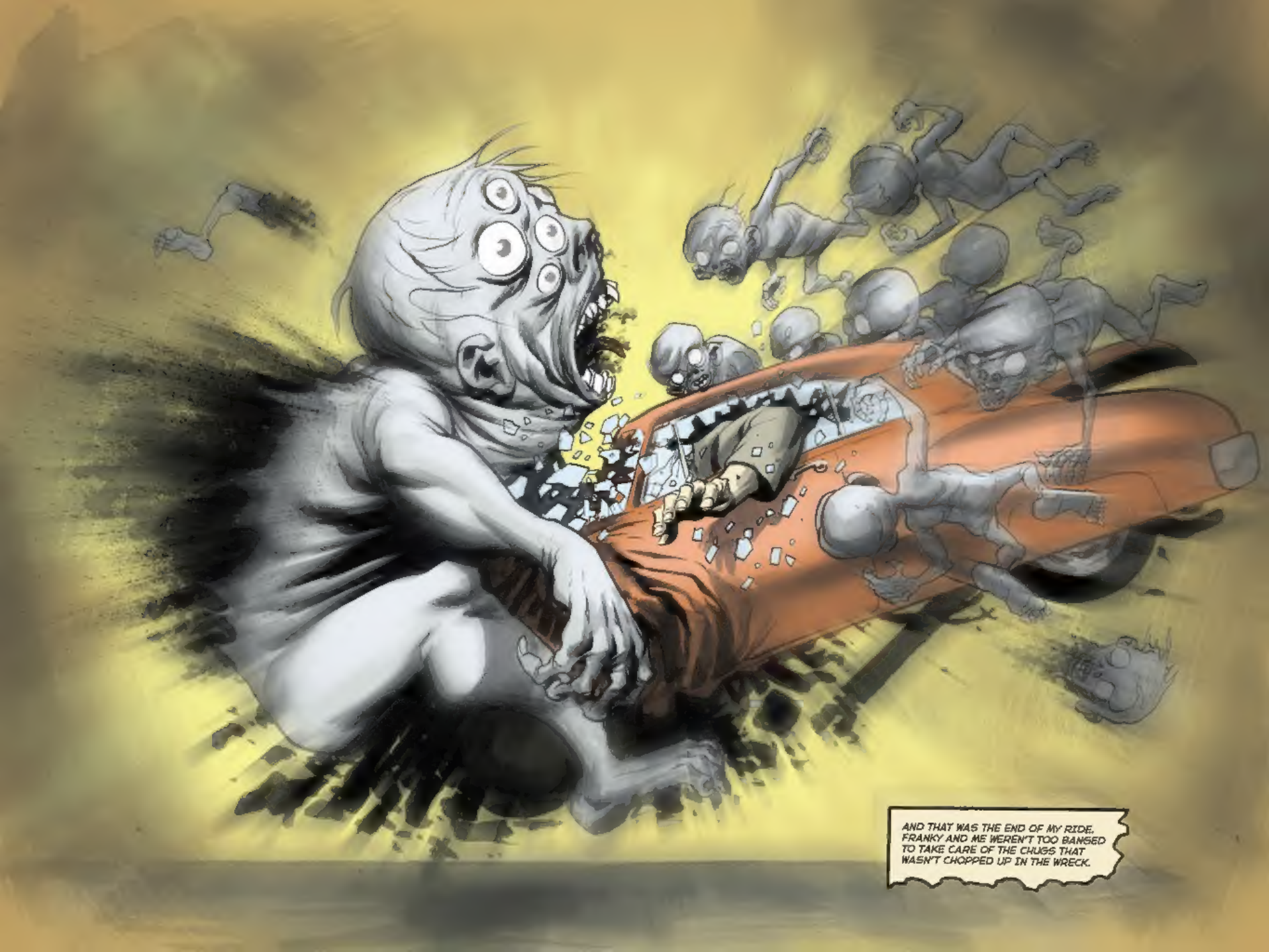

I HEAR SOMEBODY IS MAKING A DIME SELLING BULL[redacted] AROUND HERE AND IF THERE'S A SCAM TO BE SOLD, FRANKY WANTS HIS FINGERS IN IT!
WOMAN, IS YER HEAD SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE THAT?!
WAAAAAH! POO-POO!
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHIN' WRONG WITH THAT GAL BUT I NEVER WOULD HAVE SUSPECTED HER BRAIN WAS A MIDDLE-AGED, POO-FLINGING, MENTALLY RETARDED MAN.
BAHGAAA! CHEESE BUTT SMELLS POTATO!
CHICK MAGNET
NOW, YOUR ONE HAND MIGHT BE ALL BROWN AND [redacted] WHILE THE HAND HOLDING YOUR INVISIBLE MAGICAL WISHES SEEMS EMPTY... DO NOT WORRY! THEY ARE THERE! ALL IT TAKES IS TO BELIEVE! AND IF YOU BOUGHT THAT SECRET CRAP, YOU SHOULD BE BUYING THIS HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER!
YES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, YOU HEARD IT HERE! THE PEACHES VALENTINE SELF-IMPROVEMENT METHOD! THAT'S THE PEACHES VALENTINE SELF-IMPROVEMENT METHOD! IT'S HELPED MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD!
CHICK MAGNET
YES, THE PEACHES VALENTINE SELF-IMPROVEMENT METHOD! POO IN ONE HAND AND WISH IN THE OTHER! THE POO BALANCES YOUR MAGICAL WISHES!
DUDE, THIS BIT WAS WRITTEN ON MARCH 21, 2007, AND IS BEING RELEASED IN A COMIC IN JULY. SOUTH PARK WILL PROBABLY ALREADY HAVE AN EPISODE ABOUT THE SECRET WAY BEFORE THIS COMIC EVER COMES OUT.
OH, I GUESS JUST BECAUSE WE AIN'T GOT THE CONVENIENCE OF CABLE TELEVISION'S IMMEDIACY, WE AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DO TOPICAL HUMOR?! GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE BEFORE I TELL PEACHES TA GIVE YA A SMACK IN THE LIP WITH THE SMELLY HAND!

THE END

THE RETURN
IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE THE PRIEST'S CHANGELING ARMY SHOWED UP AND KNOCKED DOWN MY FAVORITE DIVE. I MISS GETTIN' LIQUORED UP AT NORTON'S. IT WAS MY PLACE. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL THAT'S BEEN CHANGIN' AROUND HERE.
LOT'S CHANGED.

NOT LONG AFTER NORTON'S WENT DOWN, MY RIDE GOT TRASHED. THAT WAS A [redacted].
BUT I'M STILL A LITTLE CONFUSED AS TO WHY FRANKY HAD THAT HABERDASHER TIED UP IN THE BACK SEAT.


BY THE WAY, WANNA TELL ME WHY THE HABERDASHER IS BACK THERE?
WE GOT CHUGS ALL OVER THE FLAMIN' COUPE AND YOU WANT TO ASK ME THAT NOW?!
YEAH. THAT FELLA'S BEEN TIED UP BACK THERE FOR HOURS. I AIN'T SAID NOTHIN' 'CAUSE I FIGURED EVENTUALLY YOU'D BE FILLIN' ME IN. THERE'S ONLY SO LONG YOU CAN IGNORE A FELLA TRUSSED UP IN YER BACK SEAT, YA KNOW.
WELL... IT DON'T CONCERN YOU... BUT HE STOLE MY DINGLEPIPER!
WHAT THE HELL'S A DINGLEPIPER?!
DON'T CONCERN YOU!!
HE KNOWS WHAT HE DONE! DON'T YA, WILSON?! YA SMART [redacted] HAT-MAKIN' SON OF A [redacted]!


AND THAT WAS THE END OF MY RIDE. FRANKY AND ME WEREN'T TOO BANGED TO TAKE CARE OF THE CHUGS THAT WASN'T CHOPPED UP IN THE WRECK.

AND LUCKILY MY CREW SHOWED UP TO GIVE US A HAND AT THE END.
DID YA KNOW YER CAR WAS ON FIRE AND SCATTERED ABOUT IN BITS?
'ELLO, MR. GOON.
BOYS, YOUR ASTUTE OBSERVATIONS OF THE OBVIOUS ARE WHAT MAKE ME SO FOND OF YA!
THIS IS A RIGHT DINGLEPIPER, I'D SAY.
I RECKON IT IS, CHARLEY.
HEY, FRANKY, YOU KNOW THERE'S HALF A HABERDASHER UNDER YER FENDER HERE?
IT DON'T CONCERN YOU, SLACK JAW!
NOW I DIDN'T SEE NO CALL TA GO MAKIN' RACIAL SLURS!
FUNNY HOW THINGS END UP. THE PRIEST USED TO HAVE A CREW MADE UP OF HAGS, LURKS, AND A MESS OF SLACK JAWS. NOW I GOT A COUPLE OF BOG LURKS AND A SLACK JAW WORKING FOR ME. I WONDER IF THAT'S A SIGN ABOUT WHERE THINGS ARE GOING AROUND HERE. BACKWARDS AND FOULED UP.

BUT THE MUDDS ARE PRETTY GOOD IN A PINCH.
AND NAGEL HAS SHOWN HE CAN BE USEFUL SOMETIMES... EVEN FOR A SLACK JAW. LIKE THE OTHER DAY WITH THOSE LAKE ZOMBIES.
BEHIND US! IT'S A SETUP!
THERE THEY ARE! WARM-BLOODED MEAT BAGS! GET 'EM!
BLAM!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
YOU FELLAS JUST GOT NO PERSONALITY.
YEAH, TAKES A LITTLE GETTIN' USED TO, BUT NAGEL'S ALL RIGHT.

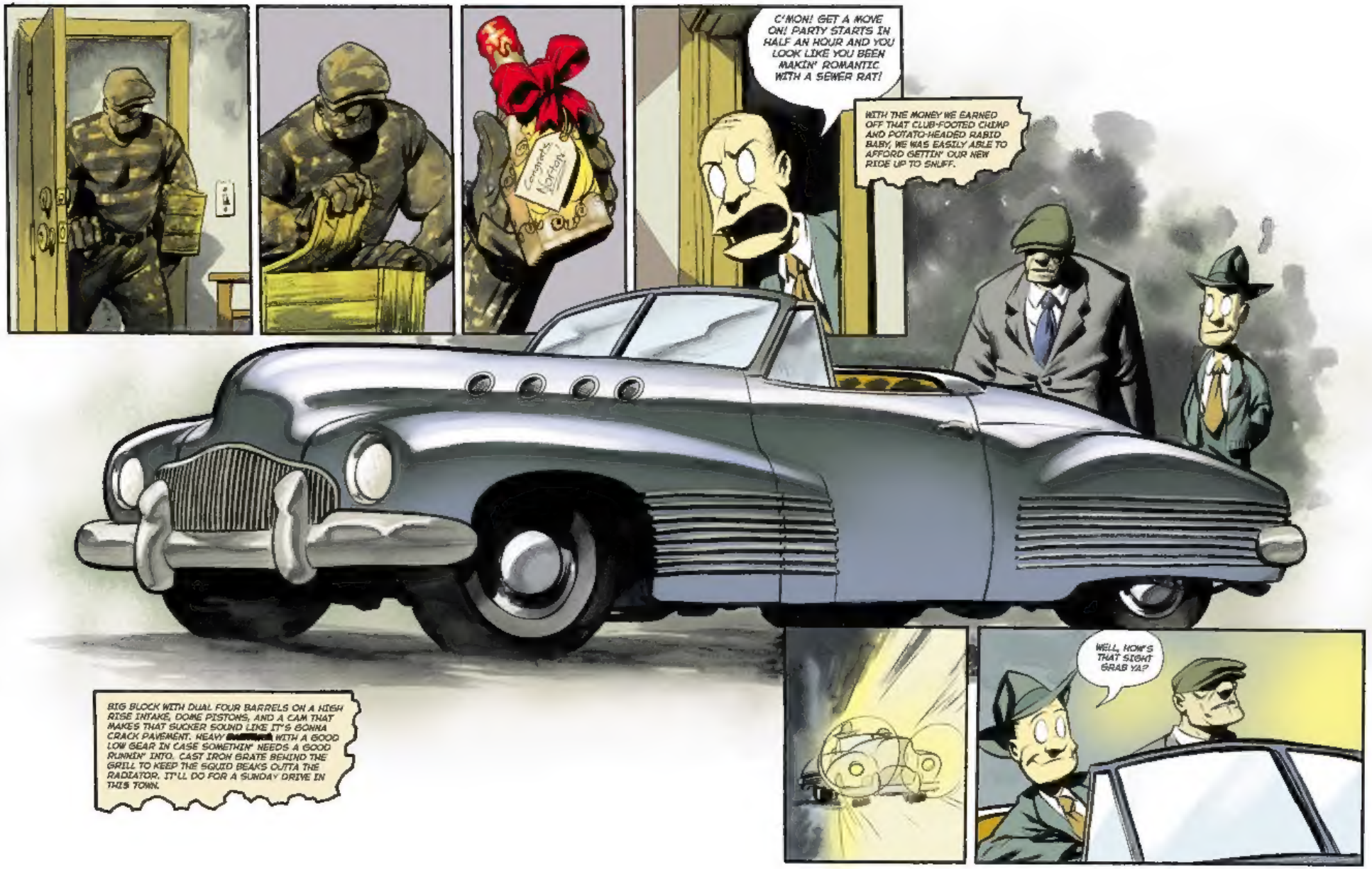
HOBO, JUST TAKE YER PET LIZARD AND KEEP TRUCKIN'! I'M ON BUSINESS AND AIN'T GOT TIME TO BE MESSIN' WITH YOU!
YUM, YUM! EAT 'EM UP!

BOY, NORMALLY I'D MAKE THIS QUICK BUT YA DONE ANNOYED ME.
HAVE FUN BREATHIN' MUD, CATFISH!
YEAH, THINGS GOT A LITTLE WEIRD AROUND HERE SINCE NORTON'S GOT TORCHED AND THE CHANGELINGS STARTED POPPING UP. BUT IT AIN'T ALL BAD I GUESS. ME AND FRANKY WAS ABLE TO START UP A NEW RACKET IN THE BACK OF ONE OF MY WAREHOUSES.

TAKING BETS ON THE CHUG HEAD! WHO WANTS A PIECE OF THE CHUG HEAD?!
CATCH ONE OF THE LITTLE RABID SUCKERS ALONE AND THEY'RE EASY ENOUGH TO HANDLE, IF YOU STAY AWAY FROM THE TEETH. WE GOT THIS IDEA WHEN WE SAW ONE OF 'EM FIGHTIN' A MONGREL OVER A DEAD RAT IN THE ALLEY.
SO FAR WE'VE HAD THE CHUG WE CAUGHT FIGHT A GOAT, AN ANACONDA, A BOBCAT, AND SOME DRUNK GUY WE FOUND WITH HIS HEAD STUCK IN A PAINT BUCKET. THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD SHOW. AND GOOD THING FOR THAT PAINT BUCKET. I DO BELIEVE IT SAVED HIS EYES.
BUT THE BIG ATTRACTION HAS BEEN THE FIGHTS WITH THIS REALLY PISSED-OFF, CLUB-FOOTED CHIMP WE BOUGHT OFF THE BACK OF SOME SOUTHERN FELLA'S TRUCK.
FRANKY, THAT CHIMP HAS ALREADY FOUGHT IT TWICE TONIGHT!
YEAH, BUT I DUCT TAPED BROKEN BOTTLES TO ITS HANDS AND A GOLF CLUB TO ITS HEAD THIS TIME!
GOOD THINKIN'.
YEAH, GOOD TIMES FOR ALL.

CHANGELINGS. AT LEAST WHEN I WAS SLAPPIN' SLACK JAWS AROUND I KNEW WHAT TO EXPECT.
THESE LITTLE [redacted] FEEL LIKE TOUGH OLD LEATHER. HARDER TA RIP APART THAN A SLACK JAW. HARDER... BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE.
THE REAL [redacted] OF IT IS YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THE DAMN THINGS ARE GONNA TURN INTO.

YOU TOOK SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME, TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO GET. ONLY ONE LEFT IN THIS TOWN AS A MATTER OF FACT. I AIM TO TAKE IT BACK.
C'MON, BIG FELLA, YA GONNA STAND AROUND ALL DAY OR WE GONNA GET TA BLEEDIN'?


Congrats, Norton
C'MON! GET A MOVE ON! PARTY STARTS IN HALF AN HOUR AND YOU LOOK LIKE YOU BEEN MAKIN' ROMANTIC WITH A SEWER RAT!
WITH THE MONEY WE EARNED OFF THAT CLUB-FOOTED CHIMP AND POTATO-HEADED RABID BABY, WE WAS EASILY ABLE TO AFFORD GETTIN' OUR NEW RIDE UP TO SNUFF.
BIG BLOCK WITH DUAL FOUR BARRELS ON A HIGH RISE INTAKE, DOME PISTONS, AND A CAM THAT MAKES THAT SUCKER SOUND LIKE IT'S GONNA CRACK PAVEMENT. HEAVY [redacted] WITH A GOOD LOW GEAR IN CASE SOMETHIN' NEEDS A GOOD RUNNIN' INTO. CAST IRON GRATE BEHIND THE GRILL TO KEEP THE SQUID BEAKS OUTTA THE RADIATOR. IT'LL DO FOR A SUNDAY DRIVE IN THIS TOWN.
WELL, HOW'S THAT SIGHT GRAB YA?

LOOKS LIKE HOME.
NORTON'S PUB
FRANKY.
YEAH?
WHAT'S A DINGLEPIPER?

YES, POOR MASTER. TERRIBLY MAD. HE MADE THE MEAN CHILDREN WHEN HE WENT MAD. AND I HEAR HIM WHISPER THAT IT WILL HAVE TO BE PAID FOR. DEAR, YES, PAID FOR.

END OF PROLOGUE

# EMPIRE